

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760 (508) 653-1674

www.fiskumc.org

November 2020

Pastor's Note

On Sunday, November 29 is our first Sunday of Advent. As we approach the Season of Advent, I continue to pray that God will provide healing and health we need to continue this Christian journey on earth.

One of the things we have loved about Advent and Christmas is the joyous gathering of the community of faith; ours being an example. During this time, we gather and prepare for the birth of the Christ Child. With the experience with the coronavirus, we do not know how that will look this year, but we can still believe in the same hope, love, joy, and peace that the Christ Child brings.

As we start to prepare, let us never forget that there was no place for Mary to rest, or for Joseph to pay for a place. But most of all, there was "No Room" for the child to be born. As we think about, or imagine this, there are many in the world without a place to live, and no job to provide a living. Many are ill and others gone on to glory.

I say this because things are different and will be different no matter what we say or do. This is because God will do a new thing. For Isaiah 43:19 (NIV) states, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Therefore, believe it or not, it will not be of our own making, but God is inviting all of us to participate. The choice is ours. As we choose, let us never lose our focus on the joy of preparation and the warmth to come this Christmas. And imagine how the Lord can increase our territory, widen our borders, and improve our sense of family, church, community, and the world as we make room for Christ and all our neighbors this year.

Finally, as we prepare, remember, "Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off." (Proverbs 23:18)

Live with **HOPE** and never give up as we prepare for the Christ Child!

-Pastor Alecia

We WELCOME All

Fisk United Methodist Church is a loving community of believers and servants with open hearts. We extend our welcome to all people, celebrating differences in age, economic reality, nationality, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, abilities, and limitations.

- We invite all to find a spiritual home with us and to share in the fellowship, worship, sacraments, ministry, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation.
- We affirm the gifts and graces of all persons.
- We are committed to be a fellowship in which all persons feel a part of our family.
- And, we invite you to work for justice with us.

Statement of the Administrative Board,
April 2019, Fisk UMC

From the Pastor's Desk

Our thanks and appreciation for those persons who were willing to share personal stories during Fisk's hosted, "Racism/Discrimination Story Telling" time. It was a time to reflect on and draw attention to create awareness about things that some people take for granted. But also, as a special sharing with our church family from where others sit. Hence, after this experience, it is hoped that lives remain open to be touched and transformed as we see, think of, or act toward others with an insight or a glimpse into what people have been through, are going through, even as our nation struggles and face realities of lived experiences.



Recommended reading for further learning, with thanks:
Bishop's recommendation—Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*
Sister, Janis Townsend's suggestion—Debby Irving's *Waking Up White*

For Personal Reflection & Spiritual growth

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, read the following Scriptures that have been selected for our worship this month.

November 1	Revelation 7:9-17	Matthew 5:1-12
November 8	1 Thess. 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
November 15	1 Thess. 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
	Psalm 123	
November 22	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:21-46
November 29	First Sunday of Advent	

Advent Bible Study

MAKING ROOM: SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRISTMAS

by Rev. Ed Robb

Senior pastor of Woodlands United Methodist in Texas

Advent is always an exciting time of preparation and participation. With Covid-19 and as we anticipate greater and better persons, places, and things, let us never give up but remain in a spirit of hope during this unprecedented time of uncertainty, fears and anxiety. As we do, we prayerfully can continue social distancing but be faithful in remaining connected. For when we stay connected, we can walk with each other, look to the hill for hope in the promise of Jesus Christ's coming. Therefore, no one will walk alone.

To this end, this Bible study will keep us connected, united even when we cannot participate in all the rituals and traditions normally associated with this season. Therefore, join us for a joint study with Rev. Dr. Charlotte Pridgen Randolph and members of the UMC of Newton, MA, to feel connected and blessed as you become a blessing to all our neighbors.

When: Wednesdays

December 2: Making Room

"The neighbor next door"

December 9: Stranger in a Strange Land

"The people new to community"

December 16: Leave the Light On

"The oppressed and marginalized"

December 23: Walking Each Other Home

"The church & how we live out our call"

*Purchase a book online
at Cokesbury.com*

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Where: Join ZOOM Meeting:

<https://umcom.zoom.us/j/99303533116?pwd=d2lvdFQ5Ri82TTlNSGZxSGNFSGp5QT09>

Meeting ID: 993 0353 3116

Passcode: 322485

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

*Same codes as
above in red.*

Worship Team

Come ye thankful people
come
raise the song of harvest
home.

All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms
begin.

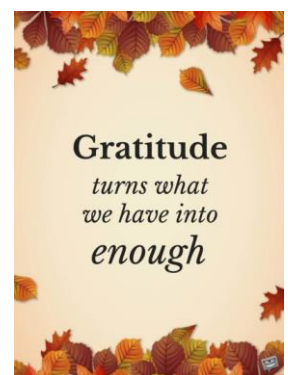
God our Maker doth
provide,
for our wants to be
supplied.

Come to God's own
temple come,
raise the song of harvest
home."

This is my favorite Thanksgiving hymn--
probably the first one I learned as a child.

It reminds me of all we have to be thankful for—
food, safety, love, shelter and God's many other
provisions.

It's so easy in the time of this pandemic- political
nightmare, people out of
work, families without food
and so on to find ourselves
not being grateful of what
we do have. It's easy to be
grumpy, stressed out, tired,
depressed and a host of
other emotions. I have found
it helps to focus continually
on gratitude.



Oh, my second favorite Thanksgiving hymn is "We
Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing." Even
though we can't "gather together" in the ways we
have always done, we are still hopeful, this month
of Thanksgiving, that things will get better and, until
they do, we still have each other.

Diane French, Worship Chairperson

The Fisk Prayer Wall and Prayer Box

When you find the need to pray with the assurance that others are praying for and with you, leave a prayer in the prayer box on the front lawn of the church, on-line on our website, or just call and speak with Pastor Alecia. Remember that no one walks alone. We at Fisk UMC are willing and ready to travel the journey with you. We are a phone call away (508-653-1674). Thanks, and be blessed.

Finance & Stewardship

Stewardship is...
the opportunity to serve God
and serve your church.

There are two compelling reasons to support Fisk... your covenant with God, and your Church's important ministries which touch so very many people.

⁶"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9: 6-7.

This year, prayerfully consider an increase in your gifted support. In this strange year of COVID, our fellowship has not been able to gather, to reach out, and to welcome. We have not been able to grow our devoted membership. Your support means more now than ever before. Please complete your confidential Covenant with God, and mail it or drop it at the office, to arrive before November 8.

TWO reasons to GIVE... to give generously... and to give cheerfully!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Crystal Mayo at 1-774-287-1705, or email her at crystaljp@yahoo.com.

Consecration Sunday will be November 8, 2020

Council on Ministries

Veteran's Day

**Stop by Fisk to hear the ringing of the bell
on Veterans Day.**

We've been asked by the town to be a Bell Ringing location in Natick to honor our veterans on Veteran's day, Wednesday, November, 11, 2020.

We will begin to gather at Fisk around 10:30am. At 11:00 a.m. we will ring the bell in Gammons park in honor of Veterans everywhere (park along Bacon Street).

This is a time to recognize the service of our veterans but also a time to gather to reconnect as a faith Community. Bring your lawn chair and we will gather outside as weather permits. Social Distancing rules apply. Masks are required.

Blessings and good health to you all.

Sherry Culver, Chair of COM, sherrycd@comcast.net

Education

Women's Bible Study Groups

I am delighted to say that both morning and evening groups are continuing. The Tuesday morning group is about to start a study of Esther. The Thursday night group is going to study the Book of Micah - one of the minor prophets.

Both classes are one hour in length. They are meant to introduce all of us to different books in the Bible with conversation and information that is an add-on - historically what was happening during that time, where and how do all these words affect us and on, and on.

God is good and guides us where we need to go.

If you are a woman and would like to join us - our ages range from in our 20's to our 90's. We are women from Fisk and beyond. Invite a friend. Let me know if you have questions or are interested in joining.

Susan Carney, susanjcarney@gmail.com 508-655-6148



Ministry of Caring

In the Garden

*"And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own".*

The hymn, "In the Garden," was written by a former pharmacist who served as editor and manager at a publishing company for 37 years. This hymn was written "in a cold, dreary and leaky basement" in New Jersey, that didn't even have a window in it let alone a view of a garden, and was first published in 1912. Is this a hymn that your heart knows? Do you know the tune and words?

If you were to sit, pray, focus, and write words to a new hymn, and had someone "musically inclined" to write the melody, people 100 years from now could say that this hymn was first published in 2021 and was written by

(YOU). What inspires you? What or whom do you count as one of your many blessings? The inspiration that you



This is a familiar Psalm (69:30). During this time of autumn and with Thanksgiving Day upon us, we consider just how thankful we are for all the obvious things...our family, our church, a roof over our head, food on our table, clothes to stay comfortable, and we are thankful for the love of God and the ability to help others enjoy the same necessities. Not all of our neighbors are as blessed. You can help!

Years past—many of us have helped provide for a Natick Service Council family to enjoy a Thanksgiving Dinner by purchasing turkeys, vegetables, pies, cranberry sauce etc. Well, as your Thanksgiving may look different this year...fewer gatherings, wearing masks, social-distancing etc., we still will celebrate our thankfulness in some way. Our hope is that all families in Natick can also enjoy this time as their family sees fit.

The **Natick Service Council** is asking for Gift Cards from Roche Brothers, Stop and Shop, Shaw's or where ever you shop. These will be available to those in need in Natick.



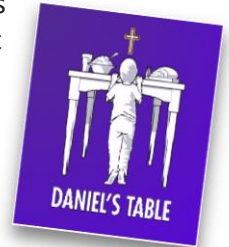
PLEASE consider purchasing Gift Cards when you are shopping or having your food delivered. These can be sent to the **Natick Service Council**- 2 Webster St. Natick, or checks to Fisk marked "Missions". A Natick Neighbor will be "thankful for your generosity."

- \$100 will buy a Thanksgiving dinner for a family of 1-2 people.
- \$125 will buy a Thanksgiving dinner for a family of 3-4 people
- Any amount is needed and can be combined with others.

ALSO, give online—www.natickservicecouncil.org.

receive from hymns, poems, stories, or by listening to someone could be a type of inspiration that someone receives from you! Reflect on who you are, your blessings and your inspirations. "Count your many blessings, see what God has done."

This Thanksgiving will be different. Chances are, 14 people are not coming over for dinner. Design your Thanksgiving around your blessings and your "gratitude attitude" will lift you up!



Missions Committee News

Missions Committee: Janis Cail, Pat Price, Marcia Hoyt, Janis Townsend, and Mary Greenwood.

NINE YEARS AGO—it doesn't seem possible that it has been 9 years. Nine years ago, David and Alicia Blais began their faith-based organization to find "a path to a solution to food security" in Framingham. **DANIEL'S**



TABLE was founded. They are finding the crisis is looming again in greater numbers.

Fisk supported them in the beginning stages of this agency. Can we do it again? The Missions Committee will be making a donation and we are asking you to do the same.

Their address is 10 Pearl St. Framingham MA 01702
Online donations—www.danielstable.org

Christmas in July/August Christmas in Maine

Gary and I delivered a van full of Christmas Gifts to the United Methodist Economic Ministry for their Christmas Shoppe. Thank you and thank you for your help in supplying NEW gifts—toys, underwear, socks etc. for the "people of the Western Mountains of Maine." They THANK YOU for your gifts and blessings. "Thank you for meeting us, for partnering with us and for continuing to meet us on the common ground of God's love." Rev. Michele St. Cyr. Marcia Hoyt-Board of Directors



REACH OUT! ...to your neighbors. Do you have a neighbor who might need assistance with shopping, raking, shoveling (yes, those days are coming)? Be ready as a Christian Neighbor to help when you find a need.

Facts about our Fisk United Methodist Women

*Just who are we? What are we doing for others?
How are we serving?*

Susan Carney—Thank you for being the SUPER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER to all of us, for being the storyteller each Sunday during worship. Susan is the current President of UMW and is leading two “online” Bible Study groups. Thank you, Susan

Dorothy Phillips—in addition to be Fisk’s Lay Leader she was recently appointed to the Board of the United Methodist Foundation of N.E. Congratulations!

Sherry Culver—current VP of the New England UMW, Sherry “managed” a wonderful meeting on October 24 for about 90 women...and a few men from all the NE states. It was the Annual Meeting and Installation with a program – “Honoring the Charter of Racial Justice” with a panel of women “telling their stories” – “Reflections on Race.” Great job!

Pastor Alecia Reeves-Freeman—She is always speaking out for justice! Justice for ALL people! Justice for women, children, and youth! Justice for people of color! Justice in our community! Challenging us to seek ways to “Do unto others...” Help your neighbor. Support those in need. We are grateful for her leadership.



If you think there is someone in our faith–family that can help, call the church office and leave a message.

"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our Thanksgiving."
W. T. Purkiser

The United Methodist Women are the “wind behind the Mission Arm of United Methodism.” We are organized for mission—for women, youth and children. As you can see ... these are just a few of the active women “helping” those in need and educating us all in scripture —by caring. It is always risky to list names, because there are many women who should be listed. Mo



We strive to raise funds while having fun. Our Spring Yard Sale was postponed (COVID) and combined with the Fall Yard Sale. Then it was rained out! After permission to have it on Sunday, it was a beautiful fall day in the sunshine. The Yard Sale was a success in many ways. Many from the community were grateful to have a mask-safe, socially-distanced outside activity to attend.



- Thanks for bringing your items that were ready to be recycled to a new home.
- Thanks to Janis Cail and Ainslee Wicks for organizing us.
- Thanks to Tom Carney, Gary Hoyt, and David Cail for taking away the remaining items.
- Thanks for the men and teenagers for their help in moving all of the sale items to the outside.
- Thanks to each of YOU—we raised **\$1031.10** for Missions!



We are sad to announce that we are not having our Annual Holiday Fair-(scheduled for Nov. 21)! It is a crazy year, as you know. This has been a difficult decision. We are concerned about having “an inside fair” at this point. Watch for news about an alternative sometime in 2021.

Stay safe and healthy. Follow CDC Guidelines. Wear your mask. Socially-distance when in a group.

Submitted by Marcia Hoyt for UMW

"Wear gratitude like a cloak, and it will feed every corner of your life
Rumi



Tuesday NOVEMBER 10
4:30pm on ZOOM

UMW Hannah Circle!

The Hannah's will meet on their "normal" second Tuesday of the month by telephone, November 10, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. We will check in with each lady to see how it is going and how you are doing, discuss the Silver Bells Fair, and the Fall Table Talking Questions that will be on page 2 of the November Hannah Banana Peel. We may still be "at home," but there are so many ways to connect with each other and things that you can do from home. We are hoping that you can all make this November meeting!

From the Church Office

November Fisk Calendar—link below
*Please note: All meetings are on Zoom
unless otherwise indicated.*

<https://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/73801616/month/2020-11-01/2020-11-01>

December Messenger deadline:
Thursday, November 19, 9AM
Mailing Date: Tuesday, November 24
No late submissions due to the
Thanksgiving holiday.

**For all church office business, at this time, please
contact Pastor Alecia directly.**

fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

phone: 508-653-1674

email: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

***Note - When you call the church, always leave a
message. Messages are played and heard daily.***

NE UMC CONFERENCE INFORMATION

District: 6

Name: Commonwealth East

Website: www.neumc.org/CE

Address: 2600 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA
02421

[\(781\) 861-0249](tel:(781)861-0249)Phone

District Superintendent: **Rev. We Hyun Chang**

His email address: CEDS@neumc.org

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

Her address: CEDistrict@neumc.org

If you would like to have an *Upper Room* and/or *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet mailed to your home, please call the church office, (508) 653-1674. to leave a message with your name and address. You may also send your request by email to fiskoffice@fiskumc.org.
Please indicate if you prefer a large print version of the Upper Room booklet.

A Funny Thing Happened on My Way to Retirement

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone that contributed to my retirement gift basket. The items chosen, with care, are all very special to me; the beautiful garnet colored chrysanthemum (now gracing my front stairs), the pop-up flower vase, several gift cards to craft stores & garden center, a sweet pillow with feline friends, a special pink covered journal, an exquisite wooden cat figurine from Kenya, and more. It's all very appreciated, and made me feel appreciated by everyone at Fisk. Thank you, all!

So, what's the funny thing? Well, it turns out that I am not as retired as I thought I would be. With social distancing, working from home, and all the other boundaries placed on us by the pandemic, SPRC has had little luck in finding a new Administrative Assistant. I was asked if I could stay on for a few months to process bulletins and newsletters so I am now semi-retired! I'll be with Fisk, from home, until the end of December.

Note: If you know of anyone that is looking for "mom's hours" and has a good working knowledge of MS Word and Excel (no formulas needed) and is familiar with using a database, please contact Michelle Drolet.

I wish everyone a lovely Thanksgiving, even if it's not the "usual" holiday. We can still count our blessings this month which, of course, includes the wonderful Fisk

Church family, that I have felt a part of these past five years.

Gratitude!

Grace and peace,
Joanne Fitzgerald

